

# LOCAL 51

## PLUMBERS • PIPEFITTERS • REFRIGERATION

**Thomas Handfield**  
Business Manager

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**William Demello**  
Business Agent

**Frederick Foeri**  
Business Agent - Organizer

May 26, 2011

Dear FCC Commissioners:

On behalf of Rhode Island Plumbers and Pipefitters, Local 51 I am writing in support of the AT&T/T-Mobile merger.

To spur job creation and grow our economy, we must invest in our nation's infrastructure. Not only do infrastructure improvement projects put people to work, but they also help grow businesses and provide new jobs. This merger will lead to an additional \$8 billion being invested as AT&T upgrades its network, which will be a big boost for local economies throughout the nation. In this time of high unemployment, this will be a boon to working families in Rhode Island and.

In addition, this merger will mean that AT&T, which has a long history of true union neutrality, will employ T-Mobile's workers. This is the best outcome possible for the people of T-Mobile – a company that has been in active search of a buyer and is historically hostile to organizing efforts in the workplace. 20,000 T-Mobile workers will have a chance to make their voice heard in their place of business for the first time and to reap the benefits of collective bargaining.

This merger makes sense for other reasons as well. Because these two companies have compatible networks, the merger will be an efficient path toward upgrading to the newest technology standard – 4G LTE high-speed wireless service. Without this infrastructure improvement, millions of consumers would be unable to take advantage of new applications and businesses that count on wireless communication would be impeded, a loss for workers and the economy.

We understand that the FCC will look into many factors as you study this merger. We hope that you will give considerable weight to the future of T-Mobile's workers and to the immense investment into new technology that this merger represents. We think it should gain your approval.

Sincerely,



Tom Handfield  
Business Manager  
Local 51  
Rhode Island Plumbers and Pipefitters

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